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Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 18, 2006.

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-12, 17-24, 27, 30 and 31 have been amended as set forth above. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 were indicated as being directed toward allowable subject matter and as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 18, 19, 21-23, 30 and 31 to overcome these rejections, as discussed below, such that claims 1-34 are now in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 18, 19, 21-23 and 30-34 were rejected for failing to recite sufficient structural elements and interconnection of the elements.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, and submit that the claims as originally filed included sufficient structural elements and interconnection of the elements. However, and without acquiescing in the rejection in any way, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 18, 19, 21-23, 30 and 31 to overcome the rejection, such that claims 1-34 are now in condition for allowance.

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More particularly, the term "adapted to" has been deleted from the claims and claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the connector is releasably attached to the post and the beam so that the connector supports the beam at the post when the connector is attached to the post and the beam is attached to the connector. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that a portion of the base engages the panels of the post such that the panels of the post are held in the specific angular orientation relative to each other by the portion of the base. Claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the post is held in the specific angular orientation by one or more closure brackets extending between opposite edges of the panels of the post. Claim 5 has been amended to clarify that the connector maintains the panels of the beam in a specific orientation when the beam is attached to the connector.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the posts are releasably attached to the bases and extend substantially vertically upward therefrom, and the connector is releasably attached to each end of the beam and is releasably attached to the posts to support the beams at the posts. Claim 19 has been amended to clarify that the channel of the base receives the post to hold the post panels in a specific angular orientation. Claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the receiving slot at least partially receives the connector to support the connector and the beam at an upper end of the post, while claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the connector is retained in a specific orientation with respect to the post when the connector is received into the receiving slot, and claim 23 has been amended to clarify that the receiving slot is configured to receive the connector in a first orientation, and the specific orientation of the connector is different than the first orientation.

Independent claim 30 has been amended to clarify that the connector engages a portion of the angled beam and engages a portion of the angled post to connect the angled beam to the respective one of the angled posts. Claim 31 has been amended to clarify that connecting

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each end of the angled beam comprises receiving an end portion of the panels of the angled beam in the connector to retain the beam panels in the angled orientation.

Accordingly, the claims have been amended to obviate the rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested. Claims 8-12, 17, 20, 24 and 27 have also been amended to delete the term "adapted to" in a similar manner as described above. Applicant submits that the amendments set forth above have been made solely for the purpose of clarifying the claims and these amendments do not narrow the scope of any of the pending claims.


Claims 1-34 remain pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any concerns with the above amendments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the claims to expedite allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

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